

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A user interface apparatus for use in one of a hybrid-fiber coaxial cable system and a fiber-optic access system, the apparatus operable to adapt signals received at an optical receiver for distribution within a user premises, the apparatus comprising:
 4. a first adaptor circuit coupled to the optical receiver and operable to select at least one channel transmitting signals modulated in a first format, and the first adaptor circuit is connected to wiring within the user premises; and
 7. a second adaptor circuit connected to the wiring within the user premises and operable to receive signals transmitted on the at least one channel and convert the signals to a format compatible with customer premises equipment.
1. 2. The user interface apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first adaptor circuit includes a band selector operable to select the at least one channel from a plurality of available channels.
1. 3. The user interface apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second adaptor circuit sends signals to the first adaptor circuit indicating the at least one channel for transmitting signals to the second adaptor circuit.
1. 4. The user interface apparatus of claim 3, wherein the second adaptor circuit receives, from a user input device, signals indicating the at least one channel for transmitting signals to the second adaptor circuit.
1. 5. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the first modulation format is a QPSK format and the second adaptor circuit is operable to convert signals in QPSK modulation format to a QAM modulation format.
1. 6. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the signals received from the first adaptor circuit include one or more of digital video signals, digital audio signals and data.

1 7. An adaptor apparatus coupled to a user premises and operable to receive media
2 signals transmitted over a distribution plant in a first format, the adaptor circuit
3 comprising:
4 first adaptor circuitry coupled to customer premises equipment and operable to
5 (1) receive signals indicative of a channel selection from a user input device,
6 (2) receive on a channel associated with the channel selection, the media signals in
7 the first format and (3) convert the signals to a second format compatible with the
8 customer premises equipment.

1 8. The adaptor apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
2 second adaptor circuitry coupled to the first adaptor circuitry and operable to receive
3 signals indicative of a channel selection from the first adaptor circuitry and send the
4 media signals in the first format on the selected channel to the first adaptor circuitry.

1 9. The adaptor apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first format is a QPSK modulation
2 format and the second format is QAM modulation format.

1 10. The adaptor circuit of claim 7, wherein the distribution plant includes a passive
2 optical network and is operable to transmit digital information signals in QPSK
3 format to the user premises.

1 11. A method of converting signals received from a head-end over a distribution plant
2 including at least one fiber-optic link to a format compatible with customer premises
3 equipment comprising:
4 receiving the signals in a first format from the head-end in a downstream bandwidth;
5 selecting at least one channel in the downstream bandwidth carrying some of the
6 received signals;
7 transmitting the signals carried in the selected at least one channel on the selected at
8 least one channel to an adaptor circuit; and
9 converting the signals received on the selected at least one channel to the format
10 compatible with customer premises equipment at the adaptor circuit.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting at least one channel comprises
2 steps of:
3 receiving a signal indicative of a desired channel from a user input device; and
4 sending a signal to a band selector instructing the band selector to select one or more
5 channels that include the desired channel.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of converting the signals comprises a step
2 of converting the signals from a QPSK modulation format to a QAM modulation
3 format.

1 14. A cable television system including a head-end transmitting media signals to a
2 plurality of users via a plurality of distribution plants comprising:
3 a hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant connected to the head-end;
4 fiber-optic access system connected to the head-end; wherein media signals
5 transmitted on the fiber-optic access system are transmitted at the same bit rate per
6 radio frequency channel as media signals transmitted on the hybrid-fiber coaxial
7 distribution plant.

1 15. The cable television system of claim 14, wherein the media signals transmitted on the
2 hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant are transmitted on radio frequency channels
3 spaced at approximately 6 MHz and transmitted at a data rate of approximately 5
4 Msymbol per sec; and the radio frequency channels include one of 256-QAM
5 channels and 64-QAM channels.

1 16. The cable television system of claim 15, wherein the media signals transmitted on the
2 fiber-optic access system are transmitted on 20 Msymbol per sec QPSK channels
3 spaced approximately between 20 and 24 MHz.

1 17. The cable television system of claim 15, wherein the fiber-optic access systems
2 include one of fiber-to-the-curb and fiber-to-the-home distribution plants.

1 18. The cable television system of claim 14, wherein the media signals transmitted on the
2 hybrid-fiber coaxial distribution plant are modulated using a format that requires less
3 spacing between radio frequency channels than the modulation format used for the
4 media signals transmitted on the fiber-optic access system.